



2011 Youth Serve Montana Scholarship

Presented by the Governor's Office of Community Service,
in partnership with Montana Campus Compact

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the purpose of the scholarship?

A. The Youth Serve Montana Scholarship was created to promote volunteerism amongst youth, to encourage youth volunteers to further their learning, and to provide tuition assistance for Montanan students who wish to attend college in state.

Q. How many scholarships are available?

A. Up to 100.

Q. How should I submit my materials?

A. Materials may be mailed, faxed, or scanned and emailed to the Governor's Office of Community Service. They must be postmarked or received by noon on April 8, 2011. Applications will not be accepted after this date. Please call to confirm receipt of your materials.

Q. Will I receive notification if my application is incomplete?

A. No. The Governor's Office of Community Service receives many applications and incomplete applications will not be considered.

Q. May home schooled students apply?

A. Yes. The Governor's Office of Community Service reserves five scholarships for home schooled students with senior status.

Q. May students from other states apply?

A. No. This scholarship is only for students graduating from Montana high schools and attending Montana colleges and universities.

Q. May international students apply?

A. No.

Q. Students in the past submitted their applications through the school guidance counselor's office. Do I need to do the same for my 2011 application?

A. No. In order to streamline the application process, students will now submit their applications directly to the Governor's Office of Community Service. The application must be validated by your high school guidance counselor, principal, or superintendent.

Q. How is my application validated?

A. Your application must be reviewed by your high school guidance counselor, principal, or superintendent. Applications submitted by home schooled students must be validated by their county superintendent. After review, the validating official must sign the application and provide their contact information.

Q. What are acceptable forms of proof of enrollment at a Montana Campus Compact member institution?

A. Letters of acceptance or letters of enrollment are both forms of acceptable proof.

Q. How will my application be evaluated?

A. Applications will first be evaluated for meeting the minimum requirements. These include:

- A completed and legible Scholarship Application form
- Proof of acceptance to one of Montana's Campus Compact member institutions
- Current senior status at the time of application
- The student will use the scholarship funds for the 2011-2012 school year

Applications will also be evaluated by a selection committee based on secondary criteria. These include:

- Geographic diversity
- Depth and breadth of service activities
- Student's personal and long term commitment to service

Q. What is Montana Campus Compact?

A. The Montana Campus Compact is Montana's largest higher education network and it is committed to renewing the public purposes of higher education. MTCC campuses sponsor Campus Corps AmeriCorps teams and service-learners to address community needs, AmeriCorps*VISTAs to facilitate anti-poverty work and engaged faculty and civic engagement professionals to support the work and incorporate service and learning.

Q. Which colleges are member institutions of Montana Campus Compact?

- Blackfeet Community College
- Carroll College
- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- Fort Belknap College
- Fort Peck Community College
- Little Big Horn College
- Miles Community College
- Montana State University-Billings
- Montana State University-Bozeman
- Montana State University-Northern

- Montana State University Great Falls COT
- Montana Tech of UM
- Rocky Mountain College
- Salish Kootenai College
- The University of Montana-Missoula
- The University of Montana-Western
- The University of Montana-Helena COT
- University of Great Falls

Find out more online at: <http://mtcompact.org/members.htm#memberinstitutions>

Q. If the college that I plan to attend is not one of Montana Campus Compact's member institutions, am I still eligible for the Youth Serve Montana Scholarship?

A. No. The scholarship is funded in part through a match from Montana Campus Compact.

Q. How is the scholarship funded?

A. The funds have been made available in partnership with Montana Campus Compact (mtcompact.org), a network of nineteen Montana campuses committed to community service. The scholarships are administered by the Governor's Office of Community Service. For the past five years, the Montana Campus Compact Board of Directors has voted to partner with the Governor's Commission on Community Service to provide the recipients of the Montana Youth Serve Scholarship with \$500 institutional matches, making the overall scholarship \$1,000.

Q. Can I apply by email or online?

A. You may submit your application via email, but there is no online portal for submitting it. If submitting by email, scan and attach all accompanying documents with signatures.

Q. Is high school grade point average included in the selection criteria?

A. No.

Q. What are examples of service activities?

A. Although service is not limited to the following, some examples of volunteer activities include: peer mentoring, emergency preparedness activities, volunteering in hospitals and nursing homes, land restoration and trail maintenance work, and volunteering at community gardens. See the attached examples sheet for more ideas.

Q. Are students required to maintain a grade point average once they enroll?

A. The Governor's Office of Community Service does not require a minimum grade point average after enrollment, but check with your college's financial aid officer to find out about specific requirements that your campus might have.

Q. How will the geographic diversity criterion be applied?

A. In order offer the scholarship broadly across Montana, the selection committee will choose at minimum one student from each high school to receive the scholarship.

Q. Who does the student contact to verify the scholarship has been applied to his/her tuition?

After enrollment in the fall, recipients should follow up with their institution's financial aid officer to find out whether the matching funds have been applied to their tuition.

Q. How is the scholarship applied to tuition? Is it split between semesters?

A. The scholarship is applied directly to the student's tuition, and is split between semesters, with \$500 applied to each semester's tuition. Check with your financial aid officer for more information or assistance.

Q. What happens if a student transfers schools after receiving the scholarship?

A. The student should notify their financial aid officers to inform them of his or her campus transfer and to ensure that the matching funds are properly applied.

Examples of Service Activities

Places and Organizations that Offer Volunteer Opportunities

- 4-H
- Adopt a Grandparent/ Homebound Elderly Companion
- Adopt a Highway
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Community Gardens and Community Farms
- FCCLA
- FFA
- Food banks and soup kitchens
- Habitat for Humanity
- Historical Societies
- Hospitals
- Humane Society
- Hunter's Education Classes
- Libraries
- Literacy Programs
- Nursing Homes
- Meals on Wheels
- Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Programs
- Museums, Art Galleries, and Monuments
- Pow-Wow Events
- Preventative Drug, Alcohol, Violence, Abuse Programs
- Red Cross (Blood Drives, Emergency Preparedness training, etc.)
- Scouting groups
- Ski patrol
- United Way
- Volunteer Fire Department/Ambulance Service
- Youth Justice Council

Types of Service Activities

- Book Drives
- ESL tutoring
- Food drives
- Fundraising for nonprofit organizations
- Global Youth Service Day activities
- Home weatherization
- Invasive plant removal
- MLK Day activities
- Peer Mediation
- Trail building and maintenance
- Tutoring